

There are some questions in life that just need to be answered. Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias says there are four fundamental questions about life everyone must answer. The questions of **Origin: Where did we come from?** **Meaning: Why are we here?** **Morality: What is good?** and **Destiny: Where do we go when we die?** We'll cover those questions in our sermon series for the next 4 weeks.

Obviously, people answer those important questions differently. The reason being that people have different worldviews. A worldview is the set of assumptions and presuppositions people have that influence their answers to those fundamental questions. Our worldviews are shaped by things like our education, upbringing, culture, and the movies, music, and media we consume. And different worldviews lead to different answers. The first question of origin-- **Where Did We Come From?** is no different.

There are really three basic answers to the question of origin. One is the theory of evolution—the belief that all life developed when non-living chemicals produced a living cell. Then, over the course of billions of years, many mutations and adaptations progressively evolved the living cell into higher, more complex life forms. Basically, molecules evolved into mankind.

The second is Creationism, the belief that God created everything in the world with intelligent design, in six 24-hour days.

The third is called theistic evolution, basically a mashup of the other two. Theistic evolution is the belief that God started the process of evolution and guided it over the course of billions of years to create the world.

Obviously, all three answers can't be right. So how can we determine which is true? We need to understand the worldviews that drive each answer.

That's right. All three answers are the results of different worldviews. Some might argue that that doesn't apply to evolution, because science isn't based on assumptions or presuppositions, but on truths verified by observations and experiments. In their minds, science is the only unbiased producer of truth. In fact, many ardent supporters of science look down on Christians and other religions for accepting things on faith, rather than reason or evidence.

But although people might think that about science, the truth is, scientists still very much work from a worldview and belief system. Even distinguished cosmologist Prof. Brian Keating says, ***"Scientists...are rarely mere gatherers of facts, dispassionately following data wherever it may lead. Scientists are human, often far too human. When desire and data are in collision, evidence sometimes loses out to emotions."*** He's saying that even scientists work under the influence of assumptions and presuppositions that fit their worldview.

For example, most scientists believe the universe started nearly 14 billion years ago with the Big Bang. The Big Bang is the theory that a tiny, hot point of matter burst, creating space and energy. Eventually atoms formed, and then billions of years later, the planets. The basic premise is that order developed from chaos and destruction. Obviously, that's not observable fact, nor does nature produce order from destruction in any other instance.

Or the fact that evolutionists believe that the first life randomly emerged from non-living matter. That doesn't ever happen otherwise, either. Besides, a living cell contains about 200,000 amino acids. It's been

mathematically estimated that the time required for the chance formation of just one of the chains of acids found in a cell is roughly 300x the 4.6 billion year age of the earth evolutionists propose.

The point being, although many believe science is entirely comprised of observable, rational fact, scientists also have to believe certain theories on faith, not fact. Why then do they believe those things? It comes back to worldview. Many scientists are materialists—believing that there is no god or supernatural activity in the world. Therefore, their answer to the question of origin can't include anything beyond the laws of nature. That's how they end up with theories that aren't always reasonable or observable, because they're trying to understand divine actions through earthly worldviews.

Compare that with some of the philosophical arguments for a creator God. One is called the **cosmological argument**. Basically, it's the question, "Why is there something, rather than nothing?" Everything that exists has a cause. If you find a watch in the woods, you assume someone left it there, not that it formed by random chance. If there's a knock at your door, someone caused it. Because there's a universe, we have to answer, "why?" and who caused it?

Then, following the cosmological argument is the **teleological argument**. This is the argument from design. If you spilled a bag of Skittles in your living room, went to the kitchen to grab a broom, and came back to find them grouped and sorted by color, what would you assume? "Someone did this." Not, "what a coincidence!"

Consider, then, the complex intricacy of your body. Like the fact that if you connected all of your veins, capillaries, and arteries, they'd circle the world 3-4 times. Or that your brain fibers end to end would reach the moon and back. A molecular biologist named Michael Behe—who is not a Christian mind you—coined the term "**irreducible complexity**." Simply, he means that no step-by-step process of gradual improvements and adaptations can account for the mysterious workings of life at the biological level. It's all just too complex and intricate to have happened by chance. Someone did this.

The Bible has an answer for that irreducible complexity. Psalm 19 says, "**The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**" All around us, from bodies, to bears, to bacteria, is evidence that points to God's creating handiwork.

Many materialists mock Christians for being close-minded because of their belief system. But in reality, it's the materialist who's constrained by a creed. As a Christian, if someone tells me a miracle happened, I can decide whether it was indeed a miracle, or if it wasn't. A materialist, however, can only disbelieve it. Their belief system won't allow a different answer.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not anti-science, as some assume Christians are. Science is a wonderful blessing from God, especially when the scientists do their work from a biblical worldview! There are intelligent Christian scientists who do just that, pointing out cracks in evolutionary theory, and making compelling arguments for Creation. If you'd like to dig deeper into what's called "Creation Apologetics," check out the WELS group, the Lutheran Science Institute. Or Answers in Genesis, who built the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. Both sites have great scientific content from a biblical worldview.

But what about theistic evolution? Is straddling the fence by keeping God in the picture, but including scientific theory OK? Again, it's important to understand what worldview drives that belief. That worldview believes in God's existence, but still holds science on equal footing.

Some Christians try to fit evolution into the Bible by claiming that the word "day" in Genesis 1 actually means a span of millions of years. After all, Hebrew can have different meanings for "day," just like English. Like, "back in my day" means an era, not a specific 24-hour day. So how can we know which it means?

We need to see what the Bible says, rather than reading our worldview into the Bible. Note in each of the passages about the days of creation, we find this repeated phrase, **“And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.”** That phrase describes a typical 24-hour day, not millions of years. Along with that, in Hebrew, when the word “day” is combined with a number, as it is in each creation day in Genesis 1, it’s only ever used to describe a 24-hour period.

But pulling Genesis 1 and 2 out of Scripture affects so much more than just Creation. It attacks the whole gospel message! If God used evolution and natural selection to create (both of which depend on death) there had to have been death before the fall into sin. Therefore, death isn’t the penalty of sin. And if death isn’t the penalty for sin, then Jesus death means nothing for us. If God created mankind through evolution, then we don’t possess eternal souls. And if we don’t have eternal souls, then there’s no reason that Jesus would have to be our Savior. As much as people try and force evolution into the Bible, and keep the same message, evolution makes the gospel an unnecessary afterthought.

The question for you is, do you interpret the Bible according to the presuppositions of your worldview? Or do you let the Bible shape your worldview? Everything changes when your worldview is founded on God’s Word in Genesis 1 and 2. It means that we have a God who not only exists, but has existed from eternity. You have an all-powerful God, who created everything in the world by his powerful word—“Let there be,” and there was. And if God is the creator of all things, then he also holds complete power over those things—including hurricanes! You have a God who didn’t need billions of years of slow evolution to create the world, but created everything in six 24-hour days. You have an all-knowing God who perfectly understands all the factors necessary to sustain life and easily weaves together such complex intricacy.

You are not just a byproduct of evolution. You are more than just the most highly developed animal. You are the crown of God’s creation! That means that you are of infinite value to God! Note the intimate way God creates mankind like nothing else in creation; as he stoops down to **“form the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.”** There is a loving relationship here, as God creates mankind in his image—holy and perfect; the will of man running perfectly in sync with God’s will, like the two rails of a railroad track. There is more to you than just flesh and blood, and more to this life than just this life. God has breathed into you the breath of life; an eternal soul that doesn’t end in death. You are so much more than the chance outcome of some random circumstances. You are the crown of God’s creation, specially designed to have an eternal relationship with him.

How much better is the reality of that worldview! God so loved his creation that even when Adam and Eve threw away God’s perfect image by sinning, he sent his eternal Son, who **“was with God in the beginning”** and **“through him all things were made,”** to have an origin, as **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”** God sent Jesus into a world of darkness, to ensure that his creation would again possess his perfect image for eternity.

That’s all the worldview shaping we need. We believe that God created us, not because of logical arguments, sound reasoning, or scientific experiments. We believe God created us, because that’s what he’s told us in his Word! God’s Word shapes our worldview. Like Christian apologist and author C.S. Lewis once wrote, **“I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”** May the God who created the rising sun, and all of us, be our answer for every one of life’s questions, including, “Where did we come from?” God created us, to be his own.